

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ARLINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) is a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, consisting of resident volunteers appointed by the Arlington Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. Council members, who may serve for as many as two consecutive terms, are charged with the responsibility of supporting and encouraging the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington, primarily through the annual distribution of state allocated funds to applicants through a competitive grant process.

Though much of its business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December, ACC is active year-round. The ACC generally meets on the second Monday of each month at the Robbins Library. All meetings are announced in advance and are open to the general public.



2012 Grant Recipients

On April 9th, the ACC honored the 2012 Grant Recipients at a Town Hall reception with refreshments, art displays, and speakers. About fifty guests -- including grant recipients, local Representatives, cultural organizations, and Arlington residents -- gathered for the reception. ACC member Margaret Barrett gave a welcome to Jennifer Atwood our MCC Representative and introduced Senator Ken Donnelley and Representative Sean Garballey, who said a few words about the importance of arts and culture programming in Arlington. Co-Chairs, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel and Eliza Burden welcomed the guests, acknowledged the attendance of many of the Town's cultural organizations, and introduced this year's grant recipients. Each grant recipient received a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, arranged by Representatives Garballey. A short, a capella performance was given by Cantilena, a women's choir from Arlington and 2012 grant recipient.

Arlington ALIVE!
Creating a Cultural Destination
A Panel Discussion and Townwide Meeting for Businesses, Non Profits, Artists and Residents
Co-sponsored by the Arlington Cultural Council, Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington Public Art, Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee and Sustainable Arlington

Speakers:
Adam Chapdelaine, Arlington Town Manager
Jan Whitted, Capitol Square District, East Arlington
Meri Jenkins, Program Manager, Cultural Districts, Massachusetts Cultural Council
Moderated by Stacie Smith, Consensus Building Institute

Opportunities for Cultural Collaboration in our Community!

All Welcome! Please join us!

Breakout sessions to follow

Thursday, June 7th 7-9:30pm
Arlington Center for the Arts Theater
41 Foster Street, Arlington

More info: acarts.org or arlingtonculturalcouncil.wordpress.com

In June, ACC co-hosted the event Arlington Alive! with four other Town organizations (Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington Public Art, Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee, and Vision 2020's Sustainable Arlington). The goal of the event was "to foster collaborative opportunities between the town, businesses, non-profits, artists, and residents that capitalize on arts and culture for the benefit of our community and local economy." Arlington has a wealth of cultural assets and has recently seen several grassroots arts initiatives along with the establishment of Arlington Public Art and the Tourism and Economic Development Committee. The time was ripe for a broad conversation on the future of the arts in Arlington and how to expand their visibility and reach both within and beyond Arlington. Over 85 people attended including Town meeting members, business and restaurant owners, non-profit organizations, local artists, and residents. A Panel Discussion introduced by Adam Chapdelaine, Arlington Town Manager and John Budzyna of the Arlington Center for the Arts, and featuring, Meri Jenkins from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Jan Whitted, Manager of the Capitol Square Business Association, was followed by a World Cafe style public conversation facilitated by Stacie Smith of the Consensus Building Institute. The conversation identified three top priorities as next steps in building the future of the arts in Arlington: 1) Create a website with consistent and effective branding to accumulate and disseminate cultural information; 2) Activate the Arlington Cultural Commission as a central leadership body to work with all constituents in conceiving and actualizing a plan; 3) Create a big, marketable, signature event that would involve collaborations between businesses, non-profits, and artists.

In September, the ACC participated in the annual Town Day celebration, offering a community "Art Card" project at its booth. Using stencils, paint, and glitter, people were invited to make cards that were then entered into a contest to select artwork for our 2013 grant-

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ee reception invitation. The ACC also uses its Town Day booth to distribute current grant applications and guidelines, and provide information about upcoming arts events.

The ACC offered a free Grant-writing Workshop in September for those planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15th. At the workshop ACC members offered attendees assistance with the grant application process. By the deadline, a total of 27 grant applications from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups were submitted to the ACC. Requests for funds totaled nearly \$26,000. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to a public session on November 7th and 8th that provided an opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects.

In November, the ACC held a day-long deliberation meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$12,930. Deliberations resulted in 15 grants being awarded by the ACC: Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30, and those receiving funds were notified in January 2013 (as directed by the MCC).

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) was established in 1970 to preserve and protect significant buildings within the Town that constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town. This work is described in the By-Laws of the Town of Arlington, Title VI, Article 6. To accomplish these goals, the Commission maintains an *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* and administers the demolition delay bylaw through formal public hearings and informal meetings with owners of inventoried properties. The Commission is an advocate for historic preservation in Arlington. The AHC schedules meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, when there is official business, at the Whittemore-Robbins House and all meetings are open to the public.

Hearings and Property Monitoring

The Commission conducted formal hearings on seven inventoried properties in 2012: 85 Beacon St., 82 Claremont Ave., 103 Claremont Ave., 67 Dudley St., 14 Knowles Farm Road, 252,258-260 Massachusetts Ave. (Capitol Square Apartments), and 13 Winter Street.

Oversight on the properties from 2005-11 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 3-5 Brattle St., 53 Brattle St., 78 Jason St., 6 Park St., 821 Massachusetts Ave., and the former Symmes Hospital site.

Historic Markers

The historic house marker program is for all Arlington properties on the *Inventory*. Each plaque displays the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Website

The Commission continues to maintain its own website that provides a copy of the *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* and describes the process for hearings before the Commission as well as listing our publications and projects at www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

Education and Outreach

Throughout the year, Commissioners participate in activities that educate and inform citizens about historic preservation. The AHC participated in Town Day with a booth.

Other Activities

The Commission continues to work with other Town agencies on the maintenance and restoration of the Whittemore-Robbins House and its outbuildings, the Winfield Robbins Memorial Gardens, the Town Hall and its grounds.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Arlington Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society, the Old Schwamb Mill, and the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development.

The 2012 Arlington Historical Commission members are: Chair JoAnn Robinson; Commissioners Jane Becker, Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, and Eric Stange; Associate Commissioner Richard A. Duffy. Vicki Rose serves as recording secretary.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

The Historic Districts Act, M.G.L. Chapter 40C, was created to protect and preserve the historic resources of the Commonwealth through a local review system that encourages and ensures compatible improvement and development. Over 340 Local Historic Commissions across Massachusetts are already established and working closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. They serve as local preservation advocates and as an important resource for information about their community's cultural resources and preservation activities.

Arlington has seven established historic districts that include 351 properties that the community has recognized as unique resources worthy of protection. The seven districts and the dates they were established or most recently enlarged are: Avon Place, 1996; Broad-

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

way, 1991; Central Street, 1982; Jason/Gray, 1998; Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill, 1991; Pleasant Street, 2006; and Russell, 1983.

The Arlington Historic District Commission (AHDC) is required by law to review the architectural appropriateness of most proposed exterior design changes, whether they be a minor alteration, new additions, or removal of trim or structures. The Commission consists of qualified volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen and always includes a property owner or resident of each District (if one is willing to serve), an architect, a real estate professional, and a representative from the Arlington Historical Society. During 2012 the Commission met twelve (12) times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their properties. Part of the regular meetings included eighteen (18) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty-one (21) Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings and additional CONA applications not requiring a hearing, twenty-one (21) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA), and thirty-four (34) Certificates of Non-Applicability (CONA) to be undertaken were granted. Three (3) denial letters was issued.

During the year the Commissioners also worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission.

Commissioner Changes in 2012

David Levy resigned as Commissioner representing the Mt. Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District. To date his position has not been filled.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM



Cyrus Dallin's 150th anniversary was most impressive. The museum's accomplishments in 2012 far exceeded expectations. Over a thousand people attended programs featuring leading figures who attested to Dallin's artistic genius, teaching legacy, strength of character and lasting impact of his work.

Activities

Arlington Community Media, Inc./ACMI videotaped "Beyond Museum Walls," a documentary which illustrates Dallin's public portraits and landscape sculpture

residing within the Town of Arlington. Produced to raise appreciation and awareness of Dallin's 'invisible' local works, it will be aired in 2013.

Art on the Green, held on the lawn in front of the Jefferson Cutter House during Arlington's Town Day, hosted artists in all media: fabric art, jewelry, painting, photography, pottery, among others. Several authors, including Michele McPhee, autographed their works at Haley Booksellers booth. The raffle drawing was a great success and helped support the Student Art Contest.

For a second year the staff offered a Sculpture Making class to first-fourth graders. Children viewed pieces from the museum collection and learned basic hand building techniques to create their own clay sculpture. With increased enrollment, an additional class was offered.

Student and adult guided tours were offered by docents throughout the year. Special consideration is always given to the interest of each individual group; be it art, history, or technique.

Awards

Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi) nominated two museum productions for awards. One was in the category of Nonprofit-Produced Special or Series Award for the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum Lecture Series produced by James McGough. The second in the category of Documentary Specials was entitled Dallin Art Museum Special produced by Jasper Hamilton with Sarah Burks, Chuck Luca, and Geri Tremblay. All potential winners were invited to the biannual awards night gala.

Events

In celebration of the 150th birthday, the museum sponsored the 2012 Student Art Contest. Its purpose was to recognize artistic achievements of local students, give students the opportunity to be inspired by Dallin's art, and create an artwork built on that inspiration. The contest was open to all Arlington students in grades six-eight. Students received prizes and awards during an opening reception of the juried, month-long exhibit at the Cutter Gallery of the Jefferson Cutter House. First prize was awarded to Margaret Gillis, an eighth grader at St. Agnes School, for the clay sculpture Patient Mother, Sleeping Baby.

Throughout the year major events have attested to Dallin's talent and lasting legacy.

- Renowned artist, curator and scholar Jonathan Fairbanks presented an illustrated lecture to "honor the career of America's greatest sculptor who worked in the figurative tradition." Daniel Fairbanks co-presented with a sculpture demonstration, creating a youthful bust of C.E. Dallin, which will be exhibited at the museum.
- Richard Turley, leading historian for the

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, described the impact of Dallin's Angel Moroni on the members of the Mormon faith in his lecture at Town Hall.

- Mayor Tom Menino issued proclamations to community leaders, politicians, Dallin and Revere family members in Boston's North End to rededicate Dallin's Paul Revere monument.
- An historical, illustrated talk was presented by Rebecca Reynolds, art historian and North End historian in Boston's Old North Church.
- A Museum of Fine Arts Spotlight Talk was held at the foot of Appeal to the Great Spirit sculpture by Curator Gerald Ward, followed by a tour and talk at Mass College of Art and Design by Paul Dobbs, Library Director.
- Christine Sharbrough, trustee, presented a colorful lecture on Dallin's Native American sculptures. New research was brought to light from the Rell Frances archival collection.
- Robert Shure, sculptor, offered a special behind the scenes tour and history on Dallin, the Caproni Brothers, the Giust Collection, and his own Skylight Studios.

Recovery

A rare statue, one of two, by Dallin was recovered 30 years after its theft from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. In 1929 the bronze, Praying Knight, was commissioned as a memorial to eleven students who died in World War I. The existence of the statue came to light when Heather Leavell, co-chair of the Dallin Museum, was contacted by a Boston art dealer. Working together Ms. Leavell, the Superintendent's Office of the Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Police Department, the art dealer, and those in possession of the statue had it returned to the school.

Chief Washakie, a forty inch bronze, was stolen from the east garden of the Jefferson Cutter House. The statue of this authentic Shoshone chief, who was the

leader of his people for over sixty years, was intended as landscape sculpture to reflect the art within the museum and attract visitors. Brilliant work by the Arlington Police Department, especially Detective Brian Fennelly, resulted in its return undamaged the day after it was reported missing. The museum is very grateful to the APD for this quick and successful recovery.

Goals Achieved

- Celebrating and far exceeding expectation for this sesquicentennial anniversary.
- Offer unique and compelling lectures and programs to those of all ages in Arlington and the community beyond.
- Launching a successful membership program to provide essential funding for ongoing curatorial,
- Programmatic, and operational expenses.
- Create a new logo, marketing materials, and sign with the help of the graphic design classes at the Art Institute of Boston.

Goals Projected

- Publish Arlington's Cultural Renaissance in partnership with the Arlington Historical Society.
- Redesign the central hall of the museum and create space for changing exhibits.
- Board and volunteer development.
- Increase educational programming for the entire community.
- Hire a consultant to lead a professional strategic planning process to envision and execute long term goals.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Contact the museum at: www.dallin.org or info@dallin.org or call 781-641-0747.



Paul Revere and General Sherman on display at Cyrus E. Dallin Museum.